

sealing member must be secured at its flange. This leads necessarily to the reduction in width of the flange of each small-size panel. FIG. 15 is a graph showing the relationship between the flange width of sealing member, i.e., the sealing width, and the reliability of organic EL display device as referred to in terms of a period of time beyond which a luminous intensity of the organic EL display device deteriorates by 50%. As shown in FIG. 15, the reliability of organic EL display device increases as the sealing width increases. This is because the increasing sealing width prevents the passage of moisture into the sealed interior space more effectively. When sealing is achieved at each small-size panel, as shown in FIG. 13, the sealing width must be reduced. In contrary, when the sealing of every small-size panel is achieved by the use of a single sealing member as practiced in the aforementioned embodiment, the sealing width can be made larger leading to the increased reliability of organic EL display devices.

In the preceding embodiments, active-mode organic EL display devices are illustrated utilizing a TFT for a switching element. Passive-mode organic EL display devices can also be constructed which do not utilize a TFT. The display devices can also be constructed using inorganic EL elements although they are illustrated in the preceding embodiments as incorporating organic EL elements.

The present invention enables size increase of EL display devices if incorporating circuits that are unsuited for large surface-area formation, and is therefore suitable for size increase of EL display devices which incorporate a switching element in the form of a TFT formed of low-temperature polycrystalline silicon.

What is claimed is:

1. An electroluminescent display device including:
plural small-size panels each incorporating plural electroluminescent elements on a substrate; and
a large-size support to which said plural small-size panels are secured on surfaces of respective ones of said electroluminescent elements by an intervening adhesive layer.
2. The electroluminescent display device of claim 1, wherein said substrate of each said small-size panel is transparent.
3. The electroluminescent display device of claim 2, wherein said large-size support is located at a side of said device that does not pass a light emitted from said electroluminescent elements.
4. The electroluminescent display device of claim 3, wherein said large-size support is a metallic support or a support carrying a metallic film on a side thereof facing toward said small-size panels.
5. The electroluminescent display device of claim 3, wherein said adhesive layer is a peripherally-extending adhesive layer provided to extend along a periphery of each said small-size panel.
6. The electroluminescent display device of claim 5, further comprising a drying agent placed in a space surrounded by said peripherally-extending adhesive layer between said small-size panel and said large-size support.
7. The electroluminescent display device of claim 1, wherein said large-size support is transparent.
8. The electroluminescent display device of claim 7, wherein said large-size support is located at a side of said device that passes a light emitted from said electroluminescent element.
9. The electroluminescent display device of claim 7, wherein said adhesive layer is UV-curable.
10. The electroluminescent display device of claim 1, wherein opposing faces of neighboring ones of said small-

size panels are also secured to each other by a second adhesive layer.

11. The electroluminescent display device of claim 10, wherein said second adhesive layer contains spacers.

12. The electroluminescent display device of claim 1, wherein said small-size panels carrying said electroluminescent elements also incorporate circuits for driving said electroluminescent elements or connections to an external driving circuit.

13. The electroluminescent display device of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent elements are organic electroluminescent elements.

14. A method for fabricating the electroluminescent display device of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- securing the plural small-size panels, each incorporating a circuit in each pixel region, to the large-size support;
- forming a respective one of the electroluminescent elements over each pixel region; and
- sealing every one of said electroluminescent elements.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said circuit is a switching element.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said switching element is comprised of a TFT.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said TFT is formed from low-temperature polycrystalline silicon prepared by crystalizing amorphous silicon.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein, prior to the step of forming the electroluminescent element, a plug portion is provided to fill a gap produced between neighboring small-size panels when they are secured to the large-size support.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of sealing every electroluminescent element is performed by attaching a sealing member.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein a seat portion having a top surface contiguous in level to a top surface of said plug portion is provided to extend over a region where said sealing member is attached.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said seat portion is formed from a negative photosensitive material.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein a passivation film is provided to overlie said seat portion.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein said plug portion is formed from a negative photosensitive material.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein a passivation film is provided to overlie said plug portion.

25. The method of claim 14, wherein said small-size panel carrying the electroluminescent elements also incorporates circuits for driving the elements or connections to an external driving circuit.

26. The method of claim 14, wherein said electroluminescent element is an organic electroluminescent element.

27. An electroluminescent display device including:

- plural small-size panels each respectively incorporating plural electroluminescent elements on a single small-size substrate, without a second small-size substrate sandwiching said electroluminescent elements relative to said single small-size substrate; and

a large-size support to which said single small-size substrate of each said small-size panel is secured by an intervening adhesive layer.

28. The electroluminescent display device of claim 27, wherein said single small-size substrate is transparent.

29. The electroluminescent display device of claim 28, wherein said large-size support is transparent and is located at a side of said device that passes a light emitted from said electroluminescent element.